

Job Chapters 40-42 - John Karmelich

In these final chapters, in effect we get Job's "Happier Ever After" ending. This book ends with Job as he gets his health back, his wealth back and a new large family like he had before. Before that happens, Job repents to God, God explains (in effect) why He is more powerful than the most strongest creatures that He created, God officially rebukes Job's friends for being wrong, and requires the three to sacrifice animals via Job to make up for it. We also discover Job has siblings who honor him after God restored his wealth to him. Apparently, Job's wife who I'm sure grieved the loss of her children herself and Job's decline in health to have ten more children with him. The only thing we do not get is God explaining to Job the "big why" question to why he suffered so bad! Let me tackle that last question first. If God did explain it to Job, then every bible believing person in history since Job who's suffered badly would ask, "Wait a minute God, you told Job why he had to suffer, why can't I know why I am suffering?" That is why I suspect God never chose to tell Job why. In effect God spends several chapters explaining how it is that the world works which of course is beyond Job's ability to control. Job's told in effect, since you can't comprehend or control what I do, what gives you the right to question me? That is why Job shuts up and let's God give His speech before blessing Job's life again with the "Happier Ever After" ending!

Obviously, I have lots of questions to answer in these chapters. The chapters before these final three is God saying in effect to Job, "If you can explain how the world was created, or if you grasp how or why the animal kingdom works then and only then I'll let you ask why your life's the way it is! Now that He finished lecturing Job on how unqualified he is to question Him, this text starts with God saying to Job, "Now that I've explained what I've created and control, do you still want an explanation for why you're suffering so bad?" Job was obviously paying attention to what God said and then covered his mouth to say, "I give, You win!" Even before God explains to Job the good things that Job will get when his life is restored, God gives a two-chapter speech that focuses on two creatures that He created. That requires an explanation about those two creatures. Let me explain:

It's considered a classical scholarly debate as to what these two creatures are. Some argue they're some sort of dinosaur or dragon. Some argue it's describing a hippopotamus and a crocodile. Truthfully it is a debate that truthfully bores me. Whatever animals God is describing, He can tell us in heaven what it refers to if He desires. All I realize is God's describing two of the most feared creatures He ever made! To explain why God gave this speech, let me share a question my youngest daughter asked me back in her early childhood, "Why did God create Satan knowing all the evil he did?" My answer was to show us that God is greater than anything He created and by trusting in Him, we can overcome anything that He created. In effect that's the point of describing these two creatures that are the focus of Chapters 40 and 41. It's the reminder that God created creatures we can't defeat on our own power, but His power's greater than the power of these creatures and if it is His will, we can overcome those creatures through our trust in Him. Does that mean no one dies at the hands of these creatures if they trust in Him? That isn't the point. The point is mankind can survive and thrive despite the existence of those creatures!

By the way before God spends over a chapter describing those two horrible creatures, he tears into Job a bit more. Chapter 40 opens after God spent the last two chapters in effect, putting Job in his place, to ask, "Who the heck are you to question me?" As I said before Job just covered his mouth as he realizes that he's in no position to question God. A good reminder on judgement day: When He judges me, the only thing I want to say is, "Guilty as charged but I want to plead the blood of Jesus" for my salvation!

OK enough of that for now. Next, we get to the restoration issues. Let's be honest, God could have just said to Job's friends, "You were wrong in saying Job sinned badly, so continue with your lives until the day I judge you and send you to hell!" Instead, in God's love for people, He explains what they should do to be forgiven. Of course, they could have just said, "Sorry God, forgive us!" Instead by having Job do the sacrifice for them it shows Job that people can be forgiven and by uniting them to serve God, it's God's way of uniting people to use their lives to make a difference for Him! Bottom line, they probably remained friends and give them credit for obeying God even after being rebuked by Him!

That leads me to discussing Job's siblings. It makes me wonder why they didn't help Job during all that time he was suffering? Why did they only give him a gift now that he's restored, and we assume that it is after the time he got his health and some of his wealth back. One of my mentors went through a time when he had to file bankruptcy and had to recover from that. One of the things I remember him saying is it was amazing how his family and friends ignored him as they didn't want to be "hit up" as if what it is he went through was a contagious disease! Just saying I can understand why his family ignored Job's situation during the tough time and now that he's rich again, all of sudden they want to give him gifts!

Then there's the issue of Job's wife. As I stated earlier, I'm sure she was hurting during all the time that Job himself was suffering! She too, lost all her children. She too, lost all her income. She too, saw Job's suffering and probably wondered how she was going to survive! We can only speculate how she made it through that time. All we know is once God restored Job's life she was "back in the picture" and Job had ten more children with her! The names of the three new daughters are given and the names tie to a sense of positive reward to translate their names! Don't know why the new son's names weren't given.

If one studies Chapter 1 of this book, it lists the specific number of animals Job owned. In those days, a man's wealth was measured in livestock! The reason the specific number of animals was listed then, is to show us that Job now got twice that amount in Chapter 42. Part of the "Happier ever after" is Job got twice as much as he lost to the "bet" God had with Satan over whether or not a man will seek God if he or she lost all they had! Did God have to give Job twice as much? Of course not! I believe it shows in a way that trusting God through times will bless our lives far more than all we lost by trusting in Him!

I love to point out that Job also doubled his children: While Job got twice as many animals in the end, he got ten new children after 10 died near the start of the book! That tells us the ten who died are alive in heaven so in effect Job got twice as many children. The last chapter also tells us Job lives 140 years after the bad times ends. Why? First during the days of the patriarchs, lives were a lot longer. I suspect it was because prior to the flood there was a layer of water vapor above the earth that came down when the flood happened. The point is lifespan decreased over the centuries after that occurred. I can't prove it but I suspect Job was 70 when the disaster occurred which is why he got 140 more years. By the time Job actually died, I suspect he lived and enjoyed a full life! He was grateful for all that occurred which includes the suffering time period!

OK I can hear a lot of you saying, "Wait a minute, I suffered terribly or I have this friend who's hurting horribly, when do I (or they) get their twice as much?" If there's one thing to learn from this book, it is that God doesn't owe us an explanation just as God never explained "why" to Job! God didn't owe Job twice as much for his suffering. Of course, I believe there are eternal rewards in heaven and that's why God calls us to use our lives to glorify Him! Do we mess up? Of course. So did Job. Our faith is that God will bless us eternally far more than we can ever imagine eternally, which is eternally longer than the span our lifetime however long that's been! Bottom line: Job's "Happier Ever After" is also ours as well! If you say I don't deserve it, the answer is neither did Job. God blessed Job because God wanted

to, not because he earned it! If we can remember that, then we can continue to use our lives to glorify Him, which is why we were created in the first place!

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Thanks for reading this!